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PRECEDENCE

FRD: 12

STAFF

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C/PCS, C/PCS/RGL, (17/W)

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IN 0996680

TOP: 182123Z APR 83

C 3 40909

S E C R E T 182123Z APR 83 STAFF

CITE C 3 40909

TO: PRIORITY DIRECTOR.

*INTEL RYBAT

SUBJECT: LNTONE INVESTIGATION OF KLAUS ALTMAN BARBIE

REFS: A. C 3 0979100

B. DIRECTOR 532130

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1. [] TALKED WITH TWO LNTONE INVESTIGATORS ON 18 APRIL ABOUT THE ALTMAN BARBIE CASE. THEY HAD ALREADY TALKED WITH AN AMERICAN STRINGER BASED IN LA PAZ AND WITH NVENGRAM OFFICERS. THE INVESTIGATORS HAD BEEN INFORMED OF ((VARGAS')) STATEMENTS DESCRIBED IN PARA 2A OF REF A. THEIR MAIN QUESTIONS TO [] CENTERED AROUND WHETHER IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR A MEMBER OF THE [] TO MAINTAIN A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH BARBIE AND REPRESENT HIS INFORMATION AS COMING FROM ANOTHER SOURCE WITHOUT THE KNOWLEDGE OF HQS OR [] MANAGEMENT. [] OPINED THAT THERE WAS HARDLY ANY POSSIBILITY THAT SUCH A THING COULD HAPPEN GIVEN OUR POLICY OF REINVESTIGATING OUR PERSONNEL AT PERIODIC INTERVALS AS WELL AS THE EXTENSIVE COLLATORAL REPORTING THAT WE RECEIVED ON VIRTUALLY EVERY TOPIC.

2. WITH THE HELP OF VARGAS, THE LNTONE INVESTIGATORS HAVE TURNED UP THE NAME OF IDEN A, WITH WHOM VARGAS CLAIMED TO BE IN LIAISON. THE INVESTIGATORS ALSO ASKED [] TO IDENTIFY THE PERSON IN CHARGE OF [] WHEN PRESIDENT HUGO ((BANZER)) FIRST TOOK OFFICE. [] RESPONDED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WAS IDEN B. THE INVESTIGATORS INDICATED THAT THEY MAY ASK HQS ASSISTANCE AT SOME FUTURE DATE IN ARRANGING INTERVIEWS WITH IDENS A AND B.

3. WHAT IS MORE WORRISOME IS THE PRESENCE OF AN ABC NEWS TEAM WHICH HAD ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF THE LNTONE INVESTIGATORS' VISIT. MEMBERS OF THIS NEWS TEAM TOLD NVENGRAM EARLY MORNING OF

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHODS EXEMPTION 382B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
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18 APRIL THAT THEY WERE HERE TO COVER THE LINTONE VISIT. DCM TOLD C- THAT AMBASSADOR HAD ACCEPTED AN INTERVIEW WITH THE ABC NEWS- MEN AND WAS TOLD BY THE NEWS TEAM THAT VARGAS HAD TOLD THEM ESSENTIALLY WHAT HE HAD TOLD NVENGRAM AND LINTONE OFFICIALS. THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR UNDER PRESIDENT BANZER HAD PASSED TO C- INFORMATION THAT IT HAD OBTAINED FROM ALTMAN BARBIE. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER VARGAS PASSED THE NEWSMEN NAMES OF FORMER C- CONTACTS SUCH AS IDEN A. AMBASSADOR EXPLAINED TO NEWSMEN THAT EMBASSY OFTEN RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITHOUT KNOWING THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF THE INFORMATION. HE ADDED THAT THIS DID NOT MEAN THAT THE EMBASSY WAS IN ANY WAY INVOLVED WITH THE ULTIMATE SOURCE OF INFORMATION. AMBASSADOR SAID, NONE- THELESS, THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF ANY EMBASSY ELEMENT HAVING RECEIVED INFORMATION FROM ALTMAN BARBIE IN THE PAST, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY. ABC TEAM LATER IN THE DAY WAS TRYING TO ARRANGE AN INTERVIEW WITH OFFICIALS OF THE SOVIET EMBASSY.

4. STATION TRACES IDENTIFY A FREDDY ((VARGAS)) MENDEZ WHO WAS A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IN 1973 AND A SUB-SECRETARY OF INTERIOR IN 1974. FREDDY VARGAS IS NOW A MEMBER OF THE BOLIVIAN PARLIAMENT.

5. FILE: 201-019126. DECL: OADR DRV HUM 4-82 ALL SECRET

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